

# *The Reformation* *Messenger*

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International Missionary Society of S.D.A. Church Reform Movement



"Man that is born of a woman is of few days,  
and full of trouble.  
He cometh forth like a flower,  
and is cut down:  
he fleeth also as a shadow,  
and continueth not."

Job 14:1, 2





**We Believe**

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.

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Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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# GOD IS SPEAKING

God has been speaking to mankind for 6000 years and very few have understood His voice and found salvation by it.

Jesus said, "That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them." Mark 4:12

Often the lack of understanding the voice of God is willful. Because it rebukes their sins and touches their idols, they reject it. Jesus said, "Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a house of thieves. And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy Him." Mark 11:17-18.

Jesus quoted the words of Isaiah but they did not want these words to be repeated to them. Nothing new was presented to them, only the old truth, yet they did not understand the importance of the word of God.

The word of the Lord came to old Israel, "Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother: and oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear." Zech. 7:9-11.

God spoke to the people through Noah but they did not hear nor understand His message.

God spoke through Moses to His people, but very few understood and believed His words and by so doing, save themselves.

God spoke through His Son, Jesus, but again very few understood His words.

"These things said He in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." John 6: 59-60, 66.

The voice of Jesus was a strange voice to the Jews. The words that Jesus spoke could have brought salvation to them, but they rejected the words of life and chose the deceptions of Satan. Yet there is nothing more wonderful than to hear the words of God speaking to us.

When Jesus spoke the words, "Peace be still", the terrible storm became calm. Only a word from the lips of Jesus and the sick were healed; the lepers were cleansed, the blind could see, and the lame could walk. At the voice of Jesus even the dead were raised. It was the voice of Jesus that spoke the world into existence.

The most wonderful words of Jesus are, "your sins are forgiven." To the dying thief

on the cross, the words, "Verily, verily, I say unto you today, thou shalt be with me in paradise," brought comfort and joy to him in the last hours of his life. Gladly Jesus would like to speak these words to every human being, but so few people are listening to Him.

God is love and His words are an expression of love, but few people can see love in the following words of Jesus:

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matt. 16:24.



"Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor." Matt. 19:21.

"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you." Matt. 5:44.





result they lost their lives. They saw no difference in the fire that God had kindled and the common fire.

God has never spoken an unimportant or meaningless word. Yet people take lightly the counsels and admonitions given by Him.

There are few exceptions; few people who obeyed the voice of God. Abraham did sacrifice his son. Noah did build an ark on the dry land. The poor widow in Zarephath did bake a cake for Elijah of her last handful of flour.

shows on television, and the Internet and all the fashions and vanity in the world?

Have we been considering seriously the following testimony, "Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully... I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action." EW, p. 71.

God is speaking to us still today in a clear language, but if we ignore His warnings and counsels then there will soon be silence. God will not speak to the sinners anymore. Then the words of the Lord will be fulfilled, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11,12.

"Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn him the other also." Matt. 5:39.

"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33.

Are these meaningless words that Jesus spoke that we can ignore or does our salvation depend on them?

In the time of Joshua, Achan did not think that the words of God were important and he ignored them; and as a result he lost his life and the whole nation suffered.

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, had heard the voice of God, but did not take it seriously and as a

Today God is speaking in clear language to the people, yet very few listen or understand His words.

The wars, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and disasters in the air, sea and land, speak to the people that the end is near.

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are almost fulfilled. Yet even the Christians in the church of God are sleeping and not awake to the seriousness of the time. Many ignore the words of Jesus, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48.

Did Jesus really mean that we must reach this high perfection in order to have eternal life?

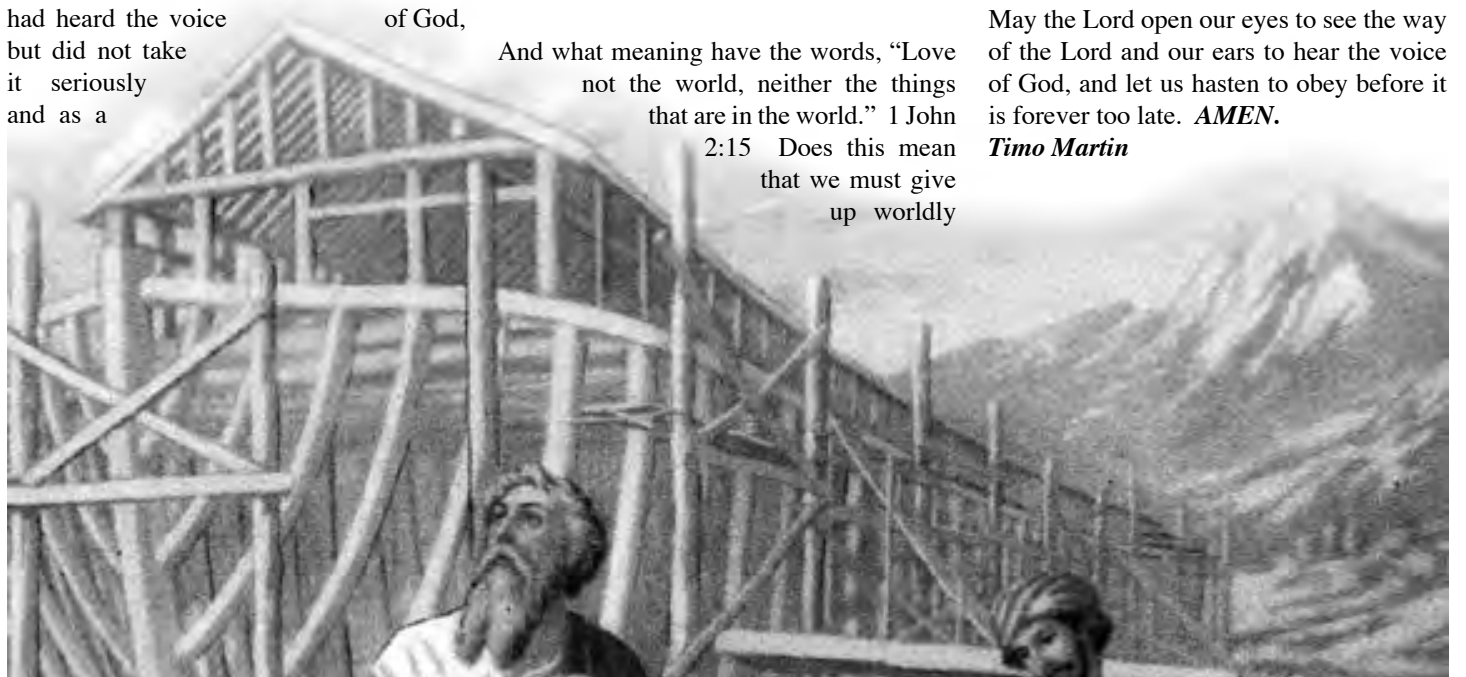
And what meaning have the words, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." 1 John 2:15 Does this mean that we must give up worldly

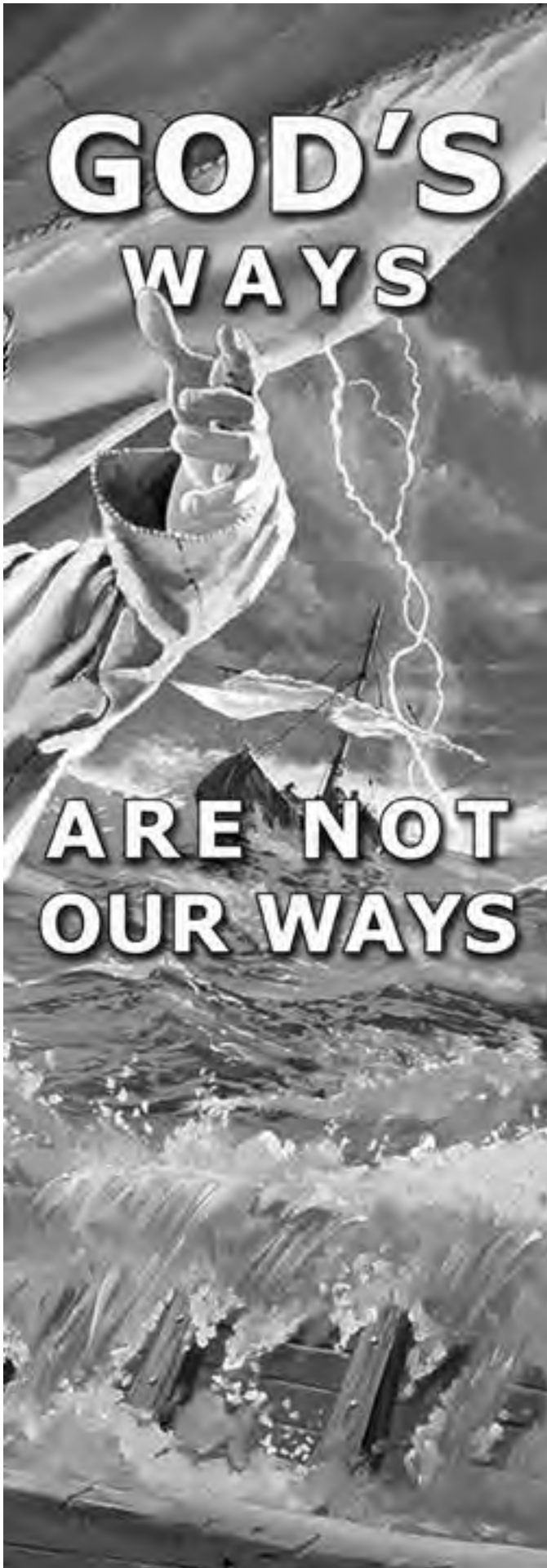
Delay in obedience is dangerous, because suddenly it will be too late to find salvation. The clear counsel is given, "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." Heb. 3:15.

To every church period in Revelation 2 & 3, the admonition is given, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches."

May the Lord open our eyes to see the way of the Lord and our ears to hear the voice of God, and let us hasten to obey before it is forever too late. **AMEN.**

**Timo Martin**





*“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”* Jonah 1:17.

Jonah was given a mission. He had to go to Nineveh and warn its inhabitants that their iniquity would bring God’s judgement upon them.

It is not easy to bring bad news or to preach the truth. Paul asks the Galatians, *“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”* Galatians 4:16. The truth can sometimes be like a double-edged sword. Jonah knew this and he tried to escape his responsibility. He took a ship that was sailing in the opposite direction from the one God had sent him.

His disobedience to God’s command was the reason for a terrible storm at sea that put in danger the life of many who were sailing on that ship. It often happens that when we do something contrary to God’s will, when we run in the opposite direction from God’s commandments, the consequences of our action ends up harming others. How careful we should be with the decisions we take daily in our life!

Jonah’s disobedience was a curse for many innocent people who were travelling in the ship. But that storm, that unexpected problem, turned the people’s eyes to heaven. Each one addressed his own god, which proved to be dead idols, that could do nothing to take them out of that terrible situation. Isaiah describes them as gods that have ears but do not hear, that have a mouth but do not talk.

When the people in the boat discovered that among them there was one who, instead of praying to his God was sleeping, the captain went to him and asked him; *“What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will, think upon us, that we perish not.”* Jonah 1:6.

When people are in a desperate situation, they try everything and finally they turn to the real God.

What kind of a God did Jonah have? They wanted to see whether maybe his God would do something. But for the true God there is no “maybe”. His promises are Yes, and Amen.

Jonah acknowledged his guilt. He had been disobedient to God and as a consequence he had put others in a very difficult situation. He was now ready to pay for his guilt and he asked the men to throw him into the sea.

Jonah, who at the beginning of the story appeared to be a coward, since he tried to run away from his responsibility because he did not want to bring bad news to the people, now takes the responsibility of his wrong decision upon himself. A real child of God may be weak, may fear and react cowardly, but at the end he will acknowledge his guilt. To recognize our fault requires sincerity, courage and humbleness.

*“So they took Jonah and cast him forth into the sea; and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.”* This situation was a great experience for all those who were travelling on that ship. They came to the knowledge of the true God or at least so it seems.

*“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”*

What a terrible experience must have been to be swallowed up by a fish, probably a whale! Inside the belly of the fish it was dark, wet and slippery and in his despair, the prophet cries to the Lord. *“I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.”* Jonah 2:2.

It often happens with us, when we act according to our own understanding, following our own feelings, that we have to face one problem after the other. Some of them make our life stormy and may lead us to despair. Different thoughts and emotions can rob us of our peace and at the end we may be swallowed up by an even greater problem that makes us forget all others and turn to God with our whole heart.

*“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”*

Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. These were days of much meditation, imploration to God, solemn prayer from the darkness of his cell. Paul had also the experience of spending three days in total darkness before he could come to the knowledge of the true God of love and mercy.

Was God indifferent to what was happening to His child? Was the fish a punishment because Jonah had been disobedient? By no means! The fish was God’s way of salvation.

Jonah acknowledged that he was guilty for all that happened at sea, that his decision not to go to Nineveh had brought up the storm, endangering the life of both the crew and the passengers. But instead of praying to God and ask Him for forgiveness, He decided to pay for his own guilt, and be thrown into the sea. In the middle of the sea, the only thing that he expected was death, and *“the wages of sin is death.”* Romans 6:23.

Sometimes we are very hard on ourselves. We do not believe enough in God’s mercy and love; we forget the great sacrifice made

for us at the cross of Calvary and we punish ourselves for our mistakes. The men said to Jonah: *“What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?”* Jonah 1:11.

This question implies a condition to calm the sea. Something had to be done with Jonah. We have to remember that in pagan religions man had to offer sacrifices in order to calm the anger of the gods.

The story of the war of Troy between the Achaians and the Trojans is a clear example of this. Menelao, the king of Sparta, had captured the beautiful Helen, the wife of king Priam’s son, Paris. A war broke out between mainland Greece and the famous city in Asia Minor. When Agammenon, the king of Mycene, Menelao’s brother, had



**HELEN OF TROY**

all the ships and their crew ready to sail to Troy, there was no wind. This led him to sacrifice his own daughter Ifigenia to the gods so that the wind would blow.

To sacrifice people in order to calm the anger of the gods or get their favour was a daily ceremony among the pagans of the old times.

*“What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us?”* Jonah answered according to what the men expected from him. *“Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you; for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.”* Jonah 1:12. Does it sometimes happen to us that we act according to what we think others expect from us instead of according to what God expects from us?

The sea was a god, the Poseidon of the Greeks, the Neptune of the Romans, and according to those men’s belief, his anger could be abased only with a human sacrifice. Jonah, God’s prophet, God’s child, was among pagans and influenced by their way of thinking and belief. Instead of kneeling down and asking his heavenly

Father for forgiveness, he decided to take the guilt upon himself and punish himself. He did not act according to his faith in a merciful God who can forgive all sins no matter how terrible they are when we just come to Him with a humble attitude and a contrite heart. Sometimes, it is already enough of a punishment to see the consequences of our sins before us, in some cases for our whole life.

Surely Adam suffered his whole life seeing how nature died out and man perished as a consequence of his almost insignificant act of disobedience, eating a fruit from the forbidden tree. There is no small or big sin for God. Every sin has a negative influence upon others, but every sin can be forgiven when repented of. Adam did not die, the Lamb of God died for him. Jesus died also for our sins, to set us free from our guilt. He paid a high price for our transgressions and disobedience.

Jonah was right, he deserved death, but he forgot that God and his Son had made a plan to set him free from the punishment and the guilt of his sins. His decision to follow the men’s expectations and be thrown into the sea was not the best testimony of a merciful God. The men *“feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord....”*, but were they really converted? Did they realize that the God of Jonah was merciful and forgiving or did they just think that He was more powerful than their gods and was satisfied with the human sacrifice offered to him?

Our merciful God did not want Jonah to die. That was not His purpose with His beloved child. He had prepared a fish to swallow him up. The fish was Jonah’s salvation.

God can prepare for us a second great trial in order to save our life, when we get into trouble due to the way we act according to our reasoning and feelings instead of following His commands and living by faith. The fish was the result of Jonah’s second wrong decision: to be thrown into the sea, to take the punishment of his sin upon himself. It is incredible the problems that we can create in our own life when we try either to save or to punish ourselves.

May the Lord help us to understand His great mercy and keep our eyes fixed on Calvary. **AMEN Teresa Corti**



In our current Sabbath School Lesson (4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2004), we are studying about Christian Service; Your place in God's plan. God has a mission for each Christian, both within the church and outside the church to the world. Our mission may not be full-time missionary work, but there is work to do. There is a world to warn. "God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighbourhoods." 9T 30. We are living in a very solemn time in this earth's history and most of the world is focused on the problems of this earth – problems of dealing with terrorism, while attempting to bring peace on earth. The focus has been taken away from God. Mankind is forgetting that God is in ultimate control of affairs on this earth. Jesus is coming soon, but very few are making earnest preparation to meet Him. He will come as a thief in the night to the majority of the world. He will come as a surprise also to the majority of the Christian world, and even some people in God's church will be caught unaware. It is time for us to all wake up and take seriously the events recorded in Revelation. They are fulfilling before our very eyes. "Every day there is something to do for our Lord and Master. Every day we are to point souls to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." 9T 48

Yet, as we are looking to eternity, every decision in our present lives must be in accordance with heavenly principles.

"God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon. It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavour to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith. Says the prophet: 'The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.'" 5T 452. These words were written over 100 years ago. How much more earnest do we need to be today? Much more so, or we will be found as the foolish virgins with no oil in our lamps.

"To every man is given his work--not merely work in his fields of corn and wheat, but earnest, persevering work for the salvation of souls. Every stone in God's temple must be a living stone, a stone that shines, reflecting light to the world. Let the laymen do all that they can; and as they use the talents they already have, God will give them more grace and increased ability. Many of our missionary enterprises are crippled because there are so many who refuse to enter the doors of usefulness that are opened before them. Let all who believe the truth begin to work. Do the work that lies nearest you; do anything, however humble,

rather than be, like the men of Meroz, do-nothings.” 8T 246

“Arise, shine: for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen up on thee.” Isaiah 60:1. “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1.

“The essential lesson of contented industry in the necessary duties of life is yet to be learned by many of Christ’s followers. It requires more grace, more stern discipline of character, to work for God in the capacity of mechanic, merchant, lawyer, or farmer, carrying the precepts of Christianity into the ordinary business of life, than to labour as an acknowledged missionary in the open field. It requires a strong spiritual nerve to bring religion into the workshop and the business office, sanctifying the details of everyday life, and ordering every transaction according to the standard of God’s word. But this is what the Lord requires.” CT 279

“To every one who becomes a partaker of His grace, the Lord appoints a work for others. Individually we are to stand in our lot and place, saying, ‘Here I am; send me.’ Upon the minister of the word, the missionary nurse, the Christian physician, the individual Christian, whether he be merchant or farmer, professional man or mechanic, - the responsibility rests upon all. It is our work to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end.” MH 148.

## WOMAN’S MISSION

A woman at home is doing a great missionary work. Her faithful work has a great influence on shaping the future of her children, which in turn has a great influence on society.

“God has assigned woman her mission; and if she, in her humble way, yet to the best of her ability, makes a heaven of her home, faithfully and lovingly performing her duties to her husband and children, continually seeking to let a holy light shine from her useful, pure, and virtuous life to brighten all around her, she is doing the work left her of the Master, and will hear from His divine lips the words: Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into

the joy of thy Lord. These women who are doing with ready willingness what their hands find to do, with cheerfulness of spirit aiding their husbands to bear their burdens, and training their children for God, are missionaries in the highest sense. They are engaged in an important branch of the great work to be done on earth to prepare mortals for a higher life, and they will receive their reward.” 2T 466.

Young people sometimes are wondering what their mission in life is. What is it that God wants them to do? If they sit at home and just pray and wait, they may never get an answer. When young people ask me how they know what their mission and purpose in life is, I always tell them to get up and do something, anything, and pray. God will either open doors in front of you, or close doors, directing you in another direction, but something needs to be done.

## MY MISSION

I want to share a little bit of my testimony at this point in time. My mission in life was to raise my children, which, by the grace



of God I have been doing for the past 18 years. I have taken to heart this testimony revealed through Sister White, regarding the work of women, and have been doing my best to fulfil this mission. Since now my children are older, I began to wonder what my mission in life would be. I knew that my mission would be changing. Perhaps I should remain at home and begin to write. Maybe I should accompany my husband in his missionary work? Or maybe I should go out and find some employment to supplement his income? I began to pray.

As I prayed I decided to see if I could find

employment. I tried many places, however since I had not been in the work force for 16 years, it was proving a difficult endeavour. I applied for many jobs, but was not hired. I had worked in different office jobs before my children were born, however that was many years ago and employers did not believe I was capable of working in such a job any longer after so many years.

The idea was put to me of returning to school to gain some education. I flatly denied that option. There was no way I would even let that thought enter my mind. As time went on, I still was not able to find employment. Then my mother and sister urged me to go apply for university. I thought about it for awhile and then decided to just explore that avenue to placate them, not believing I would ever follow through. I obtained the necessary information, and decided to send in an application – never believing I would be accepted. It had been 20 years since I graduated from high school. I applied for two different courses of study, nursing and teaching, and I prayed that the Lord would lead. I then also applied to TAFE, (Technical and Further Education) to study

Assistant Nursing. Perhaps if I was not accepted into university, then I would be accepted into this course as the requirements were not as high and the work load was not as heavy. I wanted to place several doors before me and see which one, if any, the Lord would open. With the two applications in, I began to pray. I put it to the Lord, if I would be accepted into both, I would go to university, if the Lord did not want me in university, I prayed that my application would be rejected. If He didn’t want me in TAFE, either then He should reject this application also and then I would continue looking for work, unless given another door to walk through.

During the waiting time, I prayed and I began to fear also. It had been 20 years since I had any formal education, would my brain be capable of the load of study that would be required? I feared that it would not. I then began to pray that my university application would be rejected. I did not believe I would be able to maintain my spiritual life and have time for my university study at the same time. The TAFE acceptance letter came first – now just the university letter.



It came a few weeks later and as I opened it up I was shocked. I was accepted into the nursing program. Could I do it? I had two days to decide as I had to go and enrol in two days time. Now I really prayed hard. I could not imagine how I would manage. The day came and I went to ride the train (which was a 50 min. ride) and I took my Prophets and Kings to read on the train. It so happened that I turned to read from the chapter about Isaiah's ministry entitled, "Behold Your God." As I was reading the chapter, there was quoted from the Bible these verses, on page 316. " 'Fear thou not,' He bids them; 'for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.' 'I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye man of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.' Isaiah 41:10, 13, 14."

This was God speaking to me. At that instant, I knew I was doing God's will and He, right then and there, told me not to be afraid because He would help me. I felt His presence with me. I went forward confidently with the enrolment that day.

My studies began one month later. Did my spiritual life decline? No, in fact I have more time to study now than I did before. I do my spiritual reading while riding the trains. How many people take 1.5 hours to read their Bible's during the day? I have a note book with me to take notes. Articles and studies are prepared on the trains.

Coming to the end of my first semester, I began to feel a little anxious with exams approaching. Then it was that the Lord directed me to Hebrews 13:5,6. "he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper," Yes, why of course, the Lord had promised to be with me. I had no reason to be anxious or afraid. The Lord has since also led me to part-time employment, through a nursing agency without me even looking, (and this is another story in itself), I just didn't say 'no' when God opened the doors.

I still have just over two years of study to go, however the Lord has been leading me. It may not be for everyone to attend university. All have their mission in life

and wherever we are, we are called to spread the light of the truth. The Lord has people He wants me to minister to, and keeping His will in the forefront of my mind, keeps me going. We are in this world, not to please ourselves, but to seek to save the lost.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Romans 13: 11, 12.

Are you unsure of your mission in life? Ask God, He will lead you. There are souls to save in every corner of this world. Which corner does God what you to go to?

"God's way is the always the right and prudent way. He always brings honour to His name. Man's only security against rash, ambitious movements is to keep the heart in harmony with Christ Jesus." 8T 106.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5

Time is short, and we are repeatedly told that medical missionary work is of utmost importance towards the end of this earth's history. Often when there seems to be no opening for the gospel to be received, medical missionary work is the entering wedge.

"The medical missionary work is to be to the work of the church as the right arm to the body. The third angel goes forth proclaiming the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The medical missionary work is the gospel in practice." 8T 77

"We would that there were strong young men, rooted and grounded in the faith, who had such a living connection with God that they could, if so counselled by our leading brethren, enter the higher colleges in our land, where they would have a wider field for study and observation. Association with different classes of minds, an acquaintance with the workings and results of popular methods of education...would be of great value to such workers, preparing them to labor for the educated classes and to meet

the prevailing errors of our time. Such was the method pursued by the ancient Waldenses; and, if true to God, our youth, like theirs, might do a good work, even while gaining their education, in sowing the seeds of truth in other minds." 5T 583

"Resolve, not in your own strength, but in the strength and grace given of God, that you will consecrate to Him now, just now, every power, every ability. You will then follow Jesus because He bids you, and you will not ask where, or what reward will be given. It will be well with you as you obey the word: 'Follow Me.' Your part is to lead others to the light by judicious, faithful efforts. Under the guardianship of the divine Leader, will to do, resolve to act, without a moment's hesitation." 8T 55

"When you die to self, when you surrender to God, to do His work, to let the light that He has given you shine forth in good works, you will not labor alone. God's grace stands forth to co-operate with every effort to enlighten the ignorant and those who do not know that the end of all things is at hand. But God will not do your work. Light may shine in abundance, but the grace given will convert your soul only as it arouses you to co-operate with divine agencies. You are called upon to put on the Christian armour and enter the Lord's service as active soldiers. Divine power is to co-operate with human effort to break the spell of worldly enchantment that the enemy has cast upon souls." 8T 56

We are God's stewards. He has entrusted the truth to us. What will we do with it? Will we keep it to ourselves as did the Jews in Ancient Israel? Or will we be faithful stewards, distributing it to souls longing to hear the truth. There has never been a more important time in the history of the world than there is right now. While you may be faithfully performing your mission, be prepared for the Lord to change it at any time. Be willing to step through the doors He opens.

What is your mission? If you are not sure yet, keep praying and do something for the Lord. We all have talents so don't bury your talent, but may God help each of you to fulfil your mission faithfully, because Jesus is coming soon. I pray that we will all be ready. **AMEN**

**Wendy Eaton, Australia**



## “Come for all things now are ready” Luke 14:17

“At these yearly assemblies the hearts of old and young would be encouraged in the service of God, while the association of the people from the different quarters of the land would strengthen the ties that bound them to God and to one another.” PP 540; Lev. 23:33-44.

### **Building Mature Relationships**

The camp meetings are important occasions for all our people. It is designed that at least one week may be given up to seek God without interruption. The whole heart should be engaged in this service, that a better knowledge of the scriptures may be obtained, that the plan of salvation may be better understood, and that there may be a deeper realization of what salvation means, and what it will cost to meet the high requirements of God. Those who carry the truth into their daily lives, will see a decided change in their characters. If you are brought into close sympathy with Christ, you will not engage in light and trifling conversation, you will not be indifferent to the great themes of redemption, you will not enter in flirtation, and show preference one for another on these solemn occasions. The spiritual sensibilities will be aroused. Christ Himself will be the honoured guest in every meeting. We know that Satan will also be in the assembly, seeking to win the thoughts and hearts away from Christ.

We are living in the anti-typical Day of Atonement, and our High Priest is in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, pleading His blood in behalf of His people. The mighty achievement upon Calvary, should not become an old, forgotten story to any of us. The object of these camp meetings is to arouse the mind to a more vivid sense of the solemnity of these things. Grasp the truth as it is presented to you for your soul's sake. Cherish every new idea, every divine enlightenment, lest you let the truth slip from your heart, as water from a leaky vessel. Seek to walk in every ray of light that comes to you through the ministration of the word. As we grow in the knowledge of the truth, we shall have fellowship one with another, and the more we think of Jesus and His matchless love, the deeper will that love take possession of our heart, mind, and soul, and we will enter into the scenes of Christ's humiliation, and become partakers of the divine nature. RH, June 26, 1888.

### **Attendance Of Church Members**

It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp meetings. The enemies of truth are many; and because our members are few, we should present as strong a front as possible, individually you need the benefits of the meeting. God calls upon you to number one in the ranks of the truth. 6T, 38:3.

Some will say: “It is expensive to travel, and it would be better for us to save the money and give it for the advancement of the work where it is so much needed.” Do not reason in this way; God calls upon you to take your place among the rank and file of His people. Strengthen the meeting all you possibly can by being present with your families. Put forth extra exertion to attend the gathering of God's people.

Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need every ray of light. You need to become qualified to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. You cannot afford to lose one such privilege.



Anciently the Lord instructed His people to assemble three times a year for His worship... Faith and love and gratitude were to be kept alive in their hearts, and through their association together in this sacred service they are to be bound closer to God and to one another. 6T, 39:1-3.

### **Preparation**

While preparing for the meeting each individual should closely and critically examine his own heart before God. If there have been unpleasant feelings, discord, or strife in families, it should be one of the first acts of preparation to confess these faults one to another and pray with and for one another. Humble yourselves before God, and make an earnest effort to empty the soul of all rubbish—all envyings, all jealousies, all suspicions, all faultfindings. “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the spirit of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.” 5T, 163:2.

At home is the place to find Jesus; then take Him with you to the meeting, and how precious will be the hours you spend there... Prepare your children for the occasion. Teach them that it is not so much consequence that they appear with fine clothes as that they appear before God with clean hands and pure hearts... Even unbelievers will feel the holy atmosphere as they enter the encampment... It will be to your soul even as the gate of heaven. 5T, 164, 165.

### **Visiting & Careless Conversation**

There can be no influence so detrimental to a camp meeting, or any other gathering for religious worship, as much visiting and careless conversation. Frequently men and women assemble in companies, and engage in conversation upon common subjects which do not relate to the meeting. Some have brought their farms with them, others have brought their houses, and are laying their plans for building. Some are dissecting the characters of others and have no time for disposition to search their own hearts, to discover the defects in their own characters, that they may correct their wrongs and perfect holiness in the fear of God. If all who profess to be followers of Christ would improve the time out of meeting in conversing upon

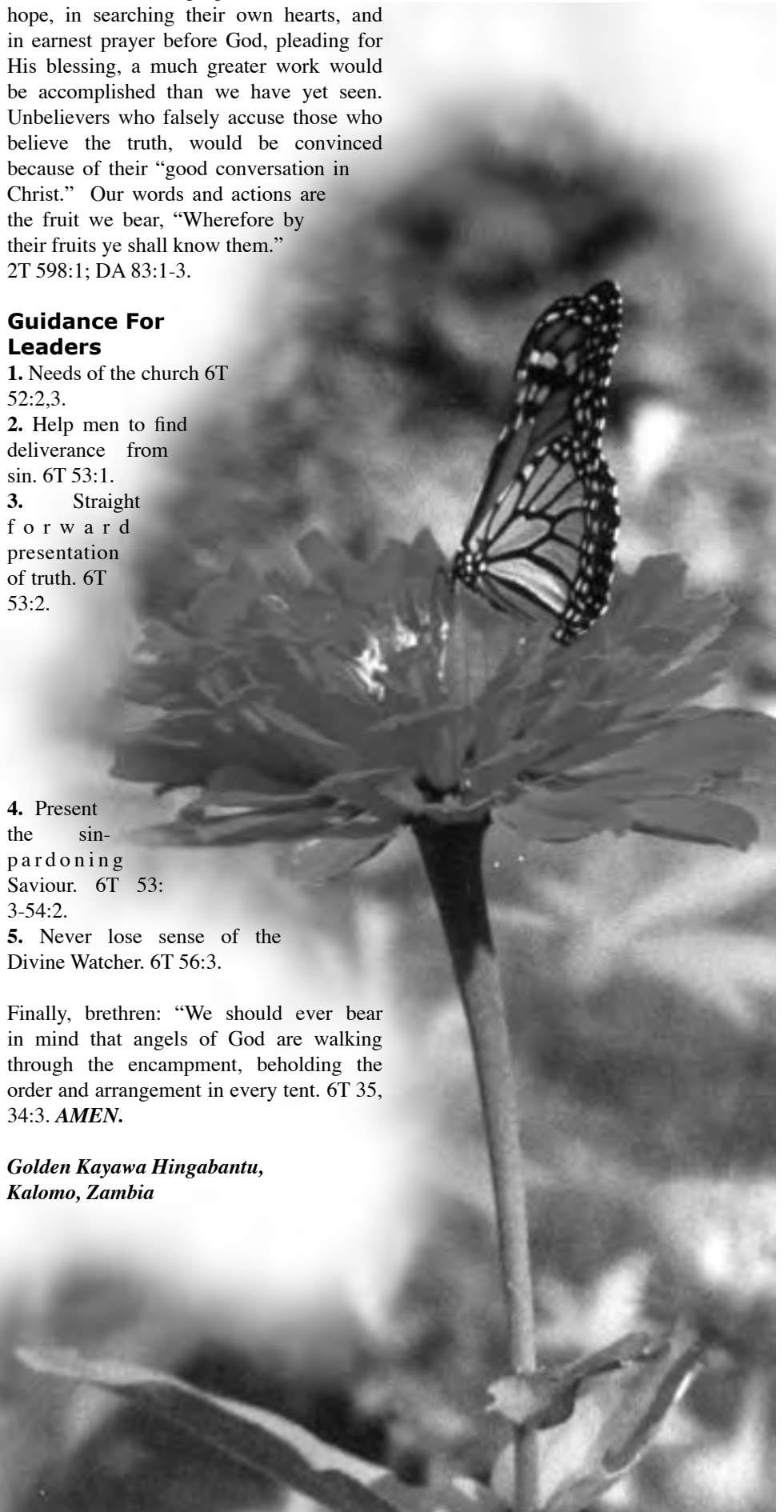
the truth, in dwelling upon the Christian’s hope, in searching their own hearts, and in earnest prayer before God, pleading for His blessing, a much greater work would be accomplished than we have yet seen. Unbelievers who falsely accuse those who believe the truth, would be convinced because of their “good conversation in Christ.” Our words and actions are the fruit we bear, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” 2T 598:1; DA 83:1-3.

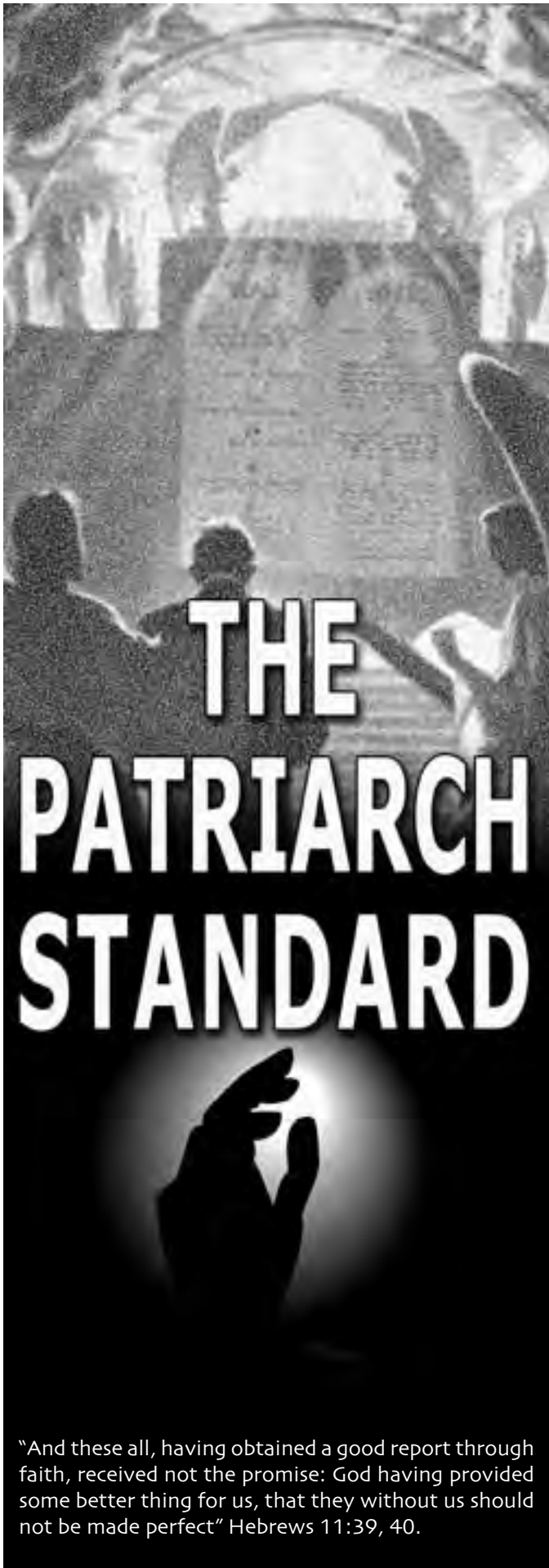
### **Guidance For Leaders**

1. Needs of the church 6T 52:2,3.
2. Help men to find deliverance from sin. 6T 53:1.
3. Straight forward presentation of truth. 6T 53:2.
4. Present the sin-pardoning Saviour. 6T 53:3-54:2.
5. Never lose sense of the Divine Watcher. 6T 56:3.

Finally, brethren: “We should ever bear in mind that angels of God are walking through the encampment, beholding the order and arrangement in every tent. 6T 35, 34:3. *AMEN.*”

*Golden Kayawa Hingabantu,  
Kalomo, Zambia*





“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect” Hebrews 11:39, 40.

Is it not a strange thought that the reward which Jesus meant for the Saints (Patriarchs) will be theirs with much dependence on my/your presence as a later Saint, of the gospel age? It is evident that upon the hope of being eternal heirs of the kingdom to come, “that they without us should not be made perfect.”

### **Inference**

To whom He wills and finds will in him, God bestows His abundant grace that every opportunity and privilege may be put to the best use that the ultimate fruit – reproduction of Christ’s character will be manifested. Such flashes of heavenly light that in many respects have much semblance to that of their Master will ever be glittering amid the gross darkness of error, demanding the reward at Jesus’ hand for heeding His biddings. As with the patriarchs of old, what have we done or suffered that we should demand the reward that is with Christ when he comes? Such that without us, it is impossible for them to receive their reward?

### **Patriarchal Times**

“What had Christ not done to win the hearts of sinners and to inspire them with unwavering confidence in Himself? For ages He had visited His people with manifestations of the most condescending kindness and unexampled love. From the times of the patriarchs He had shown how His ‘delights were with the sons of men.’ He had been a very present help to all who sought Him in sincerity.” 5T 195.

“It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian Church, says that the prophets ‘prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow,’ 1 Peter 1:10, 11. It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament.” PP 366 – 67.

“Human power and human might did not establish the church of God, and neither can they destroy it. Not on the rock of human strength, but on Jesus Christ the Rock of Ages, was the church founded ‘and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.’ Matt. 16:18.” PK 595. On this foundation the faith and works of the Patriarchs as true and honest representatives of the Living God is affirmed.

### **The Sure Foundation**

“In His teachings while personally among men, Jesus directed the minds of the people to the Old Testament. He said to the Jews, Ye ‘search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.’ John 5:39 At this time, the books of the Old Testament were the only part of the Bible in existence. Again the Son of God declared, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he added, “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead,’ Luke 16:29, 31.” PP 367.

“To those who believe, Christ is the sure foundation... Upon this living stone, Jews and Gentiles alike may... securely build. It is broad enough for all, and strong enough to sustain the weight and burden of the whole world. And by connection with Christ, the living stone, all who build upon this foundation become living stones.” DA 599



Human philosophy in the light of human wisdom have done a commendable work in the sight of man, but lamentably on a shaky platform, quite different from the pattern given us of the patriarchs. On the same patriarchal foundation, do we find the Originator and Chief Cornerstone as a Builder. He as a wise Builder has not been and will never be an author of confusion, that while He commands the standard to be achieved in the Old Testament times, He sets another in the New Testament time as well. He plainly declares: "Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am...not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matt. 5:17

## Apostle Reflections

"Upon the foundation that Christ Himself had laid, the apostles built the church of God." AA 595. "The apostles built upon a sure foundation, even the Rock of Ages. To this foundation they brought the stones that they quarried from the world. Not without hindrance did the builders labor. Their work was made exceedingly difficult by the opposition of the enemies of Christ. They had to contend against the bigotry, prejudice, and hatred of those who were building upon a false foundation. Many who wrought as builders of the Church could be likened to the builders of the wall in Nehemiah's day of whom it is written, 'They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon,' Nehemiah 4:17." AA 596 – 97

"Through the ages that have passed since the days of the apostles, the building of God's temple has never ceased. We may look back through the centuries and see the living stones of which it is composed, gleaming like jets of light through the darkness of error and superstition. Throughout eternity these precious jewels will shine with increasing luster, testifying to the power of the truth of God. The flashing light of these polished stones reveals the strong contrast between light and darkness, between the gold of truth and the dress of error." AA 598 – 99

## The Vacuum of Reward

"Suffering has been the portion of the people of God from the days of the martyr Abel. The patriarchs suffered for

being true to God and obedient to His commandments. The great Head of the church suffered for our sake; His first apostles and the primitive church suffered; The millions of martyrs suffered, and the Reformers suffered. And why should we, who have the blessed hope of immortality, to be consummated at the soon appearing of Christ, shrink from a life of suffering? Were it possible to reach the tree of life in the midst of Paradise of God without suffering, we would not enjoy so rich a reward, for which we had not suffered. We would shrink back from the glory; shame would seize us in the presence of those who had fought the good fight, had run the race with patience, and had laid hold on eternal life. But none will be there who have not, like Moses chosen to suffer affliction with the people of God. The prophet, John saw the multitude of the redeemed, and inquired who they were. The prompt answer came; 'These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' IT 78

"Paul and other apostles, and the righteous who have lived since then, have acted their part in the building of the temple. But the structure is not yet complete. **WE WHO ARE LIVING IN THIS AGE** have a work to do, a part to act. We are to bring to the foundation material that will stand the test of fire - gold, silver and precious stones, 'polished after the similitude of a palace.' Psalms 144:12." AA 599

To have the vacuum filled, the protestant reformers in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, did what was their known duty. Afar off, the prophet of Patmos witnessed of this, and with inspiration says; "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" Rev.6:9, 10

From the foregoing record, the souls crying from under the altar were slain for one reason--the word of God and the testimony (of Jesus) that they held. They well understood and knew by experience the standard that is a mark of God's holy calling. They counted not their lives as anything peradventure they could live to prove the teaching of their Master to His

disciples. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Luke 11:2 They lived to prove how the words (set standard) that Christ spoke are spirit and life, infallible.

"Everything in nature, from the mote in the sunbeam to the worlds on high, is under law. And upon obedience to these laws the order and harmony of the natural world depend. So there are great principles of righteousness to control the life of all intelligent beings, and upon conformity to these principles the well-being of the universe depends. Before this earth was called into being, God's law existed. Angels are governed by its principles, and in order for earth to be in harmony with heaven, man also must obey the divine statutes." (Set Standard), MB 48. There had never been, never is and never will be an honourable substitute for the only standard that God has set in place. Our security solely depends on us being on the mark regardless of tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword. When persuaded to resort to human might that He may save His life, the Author of this standard and foundation dared not do otherwise, but acknowledged to maintain the mark with the inquiry, "the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:11

## A Daring Need In Days Of Peril

"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom whom we may appoint over this business." Acts 6: 3. This was the need in the apostolic church, the reformer John Wycliffe asserts the same claim in which it is reported that his accomplishments were achieved by, "Organizing a body of preachers, simple, devout men, who loved the truth and desired nothing so much as to extend it." GC 87

"What the church needs in these days of peril is an army of workers who, like Paul, have educated themselves for usefulness, who have a deep experience in the things of God, and who are filled with earnestness and zeal. Sanctified, self-sacrificing men are needed; men who will not shun trial and responsibility; men who are brave and true; men in whose hearts Christ is formed 'the hope of glory,' and who with lips touched with holy fire will 'preach the word.' For want of such workers, the cause of God

languishes, and fatal errors, like a deadly poison, taint the morals and blight the hopes of a large part of the human race.

“As the faithful toil-worn standard-bearers are offering up their lives for the truth’s sake, who will come forward to take their place? Will our young men accept the holy trust at the hands of their fathers? Are they preparing to fill the vacancies made by the death of the faithful? Will the apostle’s charge be heeded, the call to duty be heard, amidst the incitements to selfishness and ambition that allure the youth?” AA 507

### **Coveting The Patriarch Reward**

“Do you desire to become a follower of Christ, yet know not how to begin? Are you in darkness and know not how to find the light? Follow the light you have. Set your heart to obey what you do know of the word of God. His power, His very life, dwells in His word. As you receive the word in faith, it will give you power to obey. As you give heed to the light you have, greater light will come. You are building on God’s word and your character will be builded after the similitude of the character of Christ, the true foundation and standard.” MB 150

We are joint heirs with the Patriarchs. “And these (Patriarchs) having obtained a good report

through faith, received not the promise: For God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” Hebrews 11:39, 40. Though we are equated with the Patriarch standard, it will only be on conditions that we too, obtain a good report through faith, receive the promise; and that we, ‘Fear none of those things which thou shall suffer, behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life,’ Rev. 2:10 before we are made perfect with them. (Patriarchs).

### **A Valuable Qualification**

“In choosing men and women for His service, God does not ask whether they possess worldly wealth, learning, or eloquence. He asks, ‘Do they walk in such humility that I can teach them My ways? Can I put My words into their lips? Will they represent Me?’ God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His spirit into the soul temple. The work that He will accept is the work that reflects His image. His followers are to bear, as their credentials to the world, ineffaceable characteristics of His

immortal principles.” MH 37

“Men who God favored, and to whom He entrusted great responsibilities, were sometimes overcome by temptation and committed sin, even as we at the present day strive, waver, and frequently fall into error. Their lives, with all their faults and follies, are open before us, both for our encouragement and warning. If they had been represented as without fault, we with our sinful nature, might despair at our own mistakes and failures. But seeing where others struggled through discouragements like our own, where they fell under temptations as we have done, and yet took heart again and conquered through the grace of God, we are encouraged in our striving after righteousness. As they, though sometimes beaten back, recovered their ground, and were blessed of God, so we too may be overcomers in the strength of Jesus.” PP 238. AMEN

*John Riang’a Obwocha, Nairobi-Kenya*







“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober” (I Thessalonians 5:6). In the time of Jesus, He being with His three disciples whom He loved the most, told them to watch with Him and pray, for the hour had come; but because of their unawareness of what was to befall them, they fell asleep. They did not know that the hour of trial had come whereas they were to watch with their Master lest they enter into temptation; but they, putting trust in themselves, forgot, became tired and fell asleep. Had He found them praying, He would have been relieved. Had they been seeking refuge in God, the satanic agencies would not have prevailed over them. He would have been comforted that they would not enter into temptation.

“In the warning to ‘watch and pray,’ Jesus has indicated the only safe course. There is need of watchfulness. Our own hearts are deceitful, we are compassed with the weaknesses and frailties of humanity, and Satan is intent to destroy. We may be off our guard, but our adversary is never idle. Knowing his tireless vigilance, let us not sleep, as do others but ‘watch and be sober.’ The spirit and influence of the world must be met but they must not be allowed to take possession of the mind and heart.” (ST 409)

If we make Christ first in everything, we are not to be self confident as Peter, the disciple of Jesus, who told his Master that wherever He was to be at that awful hour, Peter would be there, even if it meant death. Oh! He did not know that he was a weak vessel, who was not to depend upon himself, but upon his Master, who even depended upon His Father for strength. It is unsafe for us to lean to our own understanding; we are daily to seek wisdom and strength from above.

“He who appreciates the love of Christ brings other souls as sheaves to the Master. Thorough work is always done by all who are connected with Christ. They bear fruit to His glory. But indolence and carelessness and frivolity separate the soul from Christ, and Satan comes in to work his will with the poor worldly subjects. We have a great truth, but through careless indifference the truth has lost its force upon us. Satan has come in with his specious temptations, and has led the professed followers of Christ away from that leader, classing them with the foolish virgins.” (TM 130)

In the parable of the ten virgins, all were eagerly waiting for the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was no difference between them. Even unto the Christians who profess to be waiting for Jesus’ second coming, having their lamps and vessels of oil, when Christ appears, two classes will be seen as in the ten virgins. We need oil of grace in our vessels and in our lamps lest we find ourselves left behind without hope.

### **CHURCH REPROACHED BY INDOLENCE**

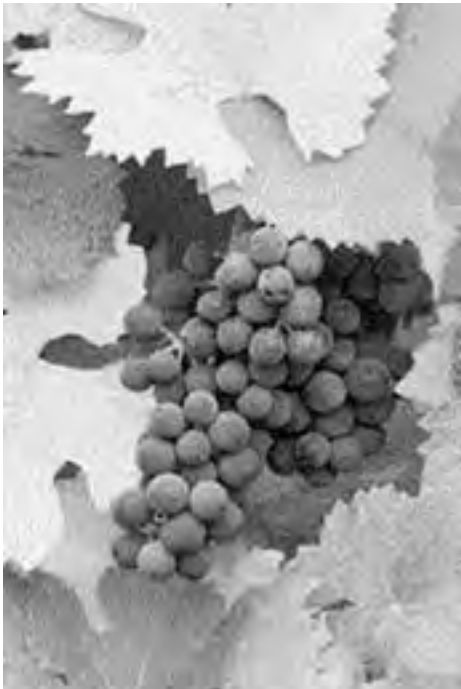
“God has opened fields before us, and if human agencies would be to co-operate with divine agencies, many, many souls would be won to the truth. But the Lord’s professing people have been sleeping over their allotted work, and in many places it remains comparatively untouched. God sent message after message to arouse our people to do something, and to do it now. But to the call, ‘whom shall I send?’ There have been few to respond, ‘Here am I; send me.’ (Isaiah 6:8).

“When the reproach of indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped away from the church, the spirit of the Lord will be graciously manifested. Divine power will be revealed. The church will see the

providential working of the Lord of Hosts. The light of truth will shine forth in clear, strong rays, and as in the time of apostles, many souls will turn error to truth. The earth will be lighted with the glory of the Lord.” (TT 46)

If we could only offer ourselves to work for God and avoid making excuses, we could make the second coming of our Lord nearer; but because we want to be given support, then go to work, we don't wish to work ourselves to support God's work. God says, arise and go to the green fields and work; lazy people are not needed for we are living on borrowed time.

“The command to you is, ‘Go work today in my vineyard.’ We are all God's workmen,



and not one is to be idle; but I would ask, what are you doing for the Master in order that you may hear His words of approval, ‘Well done thou, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things?’ God never makes a mistake; He will never call men good and faithful who are not faithful.” (TM 184)

“Many have been altogether for long in a sleepy condition. While some have worked intently, and have manifested unfailing energy, others have stood as spectators, and have been ready to make remarks of a critical character as to methods and results. This they are ready to do, though they have

never exercised their minds in originating any plans whereby precious souls might be saved for Christ. They stand ready to find fault with those who do something. When these indolent souls awaken and show some signs of returning consciousness, they are disappointed if others do not at once find them pleasant in the work. It is a great shock to them to find that work cannot be done without painstaking, self denying, self crucifying efforts.” (TM 206)

### SODOM'S SIN AND RUIN

“The prophet Ezekiel declares: ‘Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her daughter, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and the needy.’ Ezekiel 16:49. Here are represented the terrible results of idleness, which enfeebles the mind, debases the soul, and perverts the understanding, making a curse of that which was given as a blessing. It is the working man or woman who sees something great and good in life, and who is willing to bear its responsibilities with faith and hope.” (CT 279)

Idleness and riches make the heart hard that has never been oppressed by want or burdened by sorrow. The love of pleasure was fostered by wealth and leisure, and the people gave themselves up to sensual indulgence. There is nothing more desired among men than riches and leisure, and these gave birth to the sins that brought destruction upon the cities of the plain. Their useless, idle life made them a prey to Satan's temptations, and they defaced the image of God, and became satanic rather than divine. Idleness is the greatest curse that can fall upon man, for vice and crime follow in its train.

“Active hands and minds do not find time to heed every temptation which the enemy suggests, but idle hands and brains are all ready

for Satan's control. The mind, when not properly occupied, dwells upon improper things.” (IT 395)

There is but one remedy for indolence, and that is to throw off sluggishness, as a sin that leads to perdition, and go to work using the physical ability that God had given us for this purpose. The only cure for a useless inefficient life is effort, determined, persevering effort. As God's human agents we are to do the work that He has given us. To every man He has given his work, and we are not going to give ourselves up to conjecture as to whether or not our earnest endeavors will prove successful.

### BE WATCHFUL

“Watch therefore, for you do not know when the Master of the house is coming in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning - lest, coming suddenly, and finds you sleeping.” (Mark 13:35, 36) We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, who is to bring the morning, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping. His ministration from the Most Holy place of the heavenly sanctuary is nearing, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with the clothes of vengeance.



“God has always given men warning of coming judgments. Those who had faith in His message for their time, and who acted out their faith, in obedience to His commandments, escaped the judgments that fell upon the disobedient and unbelieving. The word came to Noah, ‘Come thou and all thy household into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me.’ Noah obeyed and was saved. The message came to Lot, ‘up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city.’ Gen. 7:1; 19:14. Lot placed himself under the guardianship of the heavenly messengers, and was saved. So Christ’s disciples were given warning of the destruction of Jerusalem. Those who watched for the sign of the coming ruin, and fled from the city, escaped the destruction. So now we are given warning of Christ’s second coming and of the destruction to fall upon the world. Those who heed the warning will be saved.” (DA 634)

As we are waiting for the Lord, we are not to watch for it with idle expectancy. Our expectation is to fear the Lord, and fear His judgments upon transgression. It is to awaken us to the great sin of rejecting His offers of mercy. As we are watching, we are purifying our souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching we combine earnest working for we know that the Lord is at the door; our zeal is quickened to cooperate with the divine intelligences in working for salvation of souls. We are to declare the truth as some of the patriarchs, i.e. Abraham, Enoch, Noah and Moses. Each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ’s servants give the special warning for the generation.

“Turning from man and every other model, with open face we behold Jesus in all His glory... I see heights and depths that we may reach, accepting every ray of light and going forward to a greater light. The end is near, and God forbid that we shall be asleep at this time.” (ISM 362)

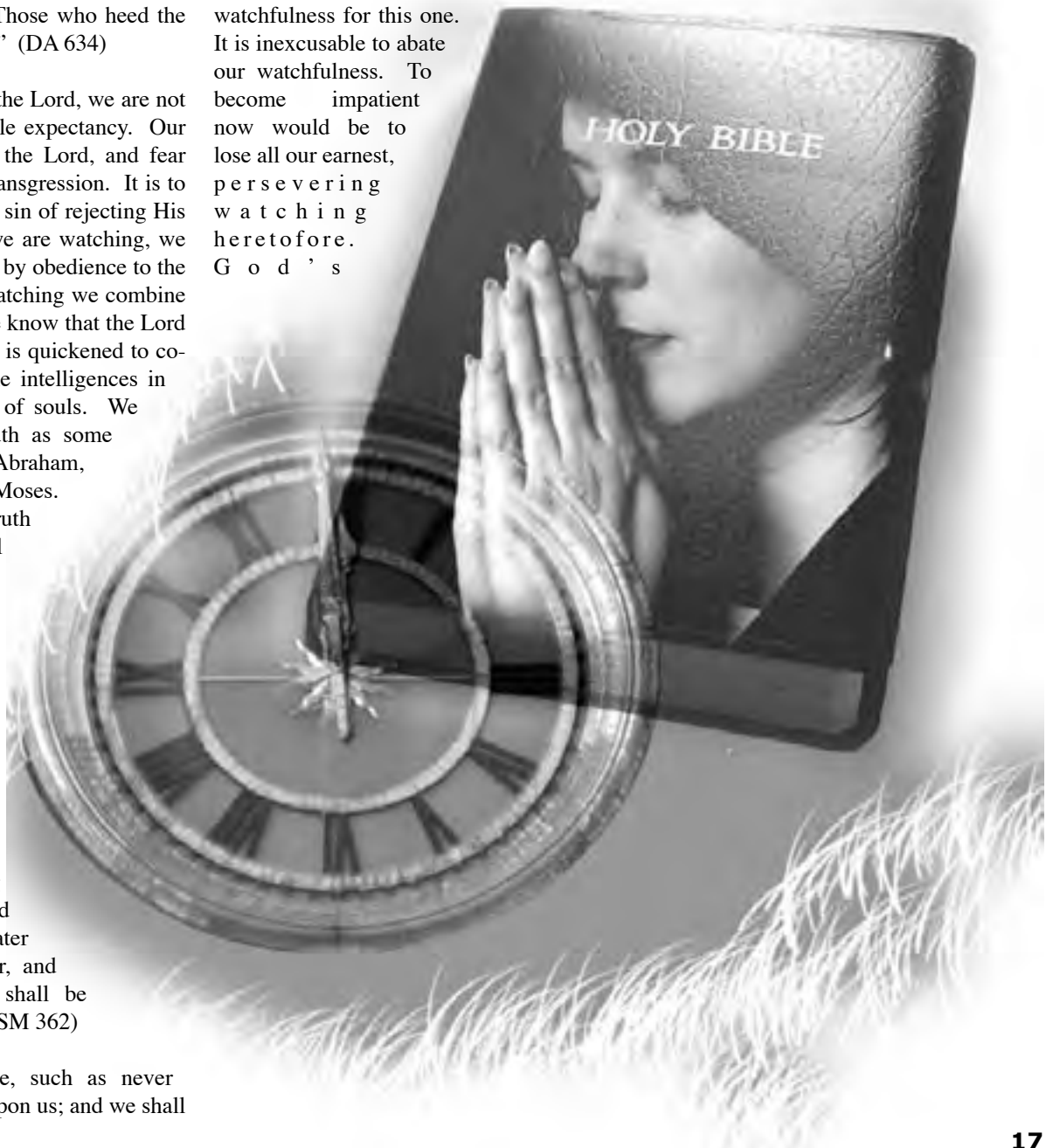
“The ‘time of trouble, such as never was,’ is soon to open upon us; and we shall

need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In the time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. ‘Though Noah, Daniel and Job were in the land, ‘as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.’ Ezekiel 14:20.” (GC 622)

Watch after watch is needed, for now the moments are fewer than before the passing of the first watch. If we watched with unabated vigilance then, how much more need of double watchfulness for this one. It is inexcusable to abate our watchfulness. To become impatient now would be to lose all our earnest, persevering watching heretofore. God’s

unwillingness to have His people perish has been the reason for so long a delay. But the coming of the morning to the faithful, and of the night to the unfaithful, is right upon us. By waiting and watching, God’s people are to manifest their peculiar character, their separation from the world. By our watching position we are to show that we are truly strangers and pilgrims upon the Earth. Therefore let us be always watchful. **AMEN.**

*Naom K. Rianga, Nairobi-Kenya*







We are entering into the fall season. The myriad leaves are drying and changing colours of vibrant hues, shimmering as they fall in sweet clusters. The chilling, ruffling breezes from the North whisper peacefully through the trees. But seasons vary and change, as untamed, aimless, hurricanes burst their way through a devastating fatal path, confusing and terrifying the masses as it relentlessly shrieks from the South.

But, another season is coming, a sickly, ominous season. A season of great trial is just before us. Prophecies are rapidly being fulfilled. Furthermore, strange things are happening in our painful, yet noble history of woes, and which are recorded in the Books of Heaven. Everything in our giddy, blundering world is in agitation, shaking, full of confusion, fear insecurity, murmuring, no-time, busy, indifference. Everyone wants a change, any kind of change, but a change! Everyone is clamoring for a change; a change for the better. But, we know this kind of change is not coming. "The wicked will become more wicked. The wicked will not seek God." (Dan. 12:10; Ps. 10:4). It is a troubled world we live in. It is an inescapable fact! We knew it was coming, didn't we? Well, now it is here, still in all its beauty, but mixed with ugliness.

Dreamily, financial markets, furthermore, are wavering and ready to collapse without notice. Shameful, tyrannical governments, too, are ready to collapse. What does all of this mean? Well, it is simply and clearly found in Matthew 24 and 25. All the signs of the soon coming of Jesus Christ; His second advent, can be easily found and described here. "Wars, and rumours of wars." The nations are angry. The nations are exploiting the naïve, home-loving citizens. "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteneth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly." Zeph. 1:14.

Events, too are changing rapidly to bring on the Day of the Lord, the Day of the Lord's wrath. But, already when nation is rising against nation, kingdom against kingdom, religion against religion, there is not a general war, yet. As yet, "the four winds are being held back by the angels until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads." (Isa. 56:6; Rev. 1:1) Then the great powers of the earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle...Armageddon.

Who, now, reads the warnings? The signs are all there. But, unfortunately, the attitudes are not sound. Therefore, let us heed Zephaniah's sound warning call to repentance: "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired. Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass like the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, who have kept his ordinances; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger." Zeph. 2:1-3.

Satan is busy laying plans for the last mighty conflict, when all will take sides; one side or the other. After the gospel was proclaimed in the world, nearly 2000 years ago, Satan presents to men and women the same enticing scene that he presented to Jesus Christ. In a wonderful and spectacular manner, he causes kingdoms of the world in their glory to pass before them, in all their tempting array. Then he promises to all who fall down to worship him. Thusly, he seeks to bring men under his dominion and captive power...which he is accomplishing.



Satan is working to make himself God and destroy all who oppose him. Today, it is obvious to those who understand, and are faithful, that the world is bowing down before him. Satan's power is received as the power of God by the careless and indifferent ones. Prophecy is being rapidly fulfilled, that, "All the world wondered after the beast." (Rev. 13:3).

We see, hear, and read of men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress, enlightenment, new light, prosperity, knowledge, inner power, break-throughs, aura, meridians of energy, wearing haloes of light, etc. But, to God are revealed inward guilt, immorality, perversion.

In Rev. 3:17, we can clearly see the state of man today and his attitudes. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

God and heaven sees all, knows all, and watches all; an earth filled with violence and crime. Also, wealth is obtained by every kind and species of robbery, not robbery of men only, but unknowingly, perhaps, robbery of God. Are you robbing God? How? From God in your tithes. Your test of faith. Men are using His means, His blessings, His promises, to gratify their selfishness. Everything they can recklessly take to minister to their greed. Avarice (misery plus greed), sensuality, pleasure-seeking, prevail today.

Men have accepted Satan's characteristics and attributes, the first great deceiver, liar and murderer. They have accepted him as God, yet, and thereby have his spirit. (1 John 4:3). Moreover, Satan now controls all of the apostate churches today.

The apostle John, that old sage of Patmos in Greece, saw all of this very moving and painful scene, from inside a lonely, damp cave, some 1900 years ago. He saw it all as if the whole world was ready and willing to ignorantly lose their precious souls.

We are living and experiencing the same elements of society as in the days of Noah and Sodom, that ultimately destroyed them,

and will similarly devastate our world and the hope of eternal salvation for mankind.

But, John also saw a small company of God's commandment keeping people, and who resisted Satan. They had on the foreheads, the seal of the living God, and he said, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Rev. 14:12). "I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies, neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." Zeph. 3:12, 13.

When the wakening, harsh storm of God's wrath breaks upon the sleeping world, it will be a terrible revelation for souls to find their house is being swept away, wiped out, because it is built on sand. The warning must be given them before it is too late. We should feel now the responsibility and the privilege of giving the truths that God has given us for this time. Now is the last time for the warning to be given! The warning is found in the Third Angel's Message. (Rev. 14:6-12). It is the imperative and solemn duty of God's people to proclaim it. It is a hard, terse message! But, it must be unsparingly given, now. Many precious, worthy lives are at stake. "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26).

There is a special power also in the presentation of the truth at the present time. But, how long will it continue? Only a little while. If there ever was a crisis, it is now. All are deciding now their eternal destiny. All have to make a choice soon. God or Belial!

Men have to be aroused and awoken to realize how solemn, how serious, how important it is, these times, these seasons. It is almost like putting your hand on the Bible and taking a solemn oath, for the nearness of the day whereupon human probation ends is upon us.

The Third Angel is to go forward with great power to prepare a people to stand in the days of peril. The Loud Cry! The Midnight Cry! Do not ignore these words, this work, and just go home, or treat it with little importance. In addition, what is the

Lord's command to His servants? "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thy self from thine own flesh?" (Isa. 58:7). Poverty is the number one problem in the world today. It is evident, massive and pathetic! Furthermore, another command from the Lord: "Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20). From this, it is very clear what our mission and joyful duty is. Arise, and go forth. "Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Matt. 12:32).

What more? Do not enter into any union with the world or compromise with the world. Many think, for some reason, that by doing this we can accomplish more. If anyone, however, stands in the way of this work they will displease God. No truths that we know should be weakened. What do we mean by this? God has precious ones in the church; tares among the wheat. God, however, does not give you the right to say who are the tares and who are the wheat. We may feel that we can condemn the faults of others, but, we have greater faults, we must realize, that others see. Nothing must impede our work for this time, whatsoever, with petty diversions, divisions, discriminations.

We have the old land-marks, the old paths of Truth, Experience and Duty. (TED). And, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk in it, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer. 6:16). "Consider the days of old, the years of ancient times." (Ps. 77:5); "thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." (Isa. 25:1).

Moreover, we have the prophecies for the last days (Dan. 2, 8, 9; Rev. 14:6-8, 16, 18). We are the "bread of life". We are the "mills" for those starving for salvation, which by confession and repentance, can humbly receive the truth as it is in Jesus Christ.

Still further, we have the towering pillars of our abiding faith—the Commandments, Marriage, Prophecy,



Vegetarianism, Tithes, Sanctuary, Health Reform, Fellowship, Sabbath, Spirit of Prophecy, and Jesus Christ's Second Advent. No other church preaches these truths or has such an urgent or turbulent message. Although these pillars are tottering, but immovable, they are our strength. If we leave or shake one of the pillars, apostasy from the truth will follow.

We are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, boldly in full view of the world. "So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." (Isa. 59:19). Will you be prepared and have the courage and will to do this?

I remind you of the aggressive movements being made for the restriction of religious liberty, to ruthlessly force men to honour the false Sabbath, the Sabbath-Sunday. God's sanctified memorial has been torn down, trampled on, and in its place a false Sabbath has been subtly placed. A false Sabbath with no sanctity, no blessing, no rest. It is God's people who are being called upon to repair this flagrant breach man alone has created. "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." Isa. 58:12.

The time is soon coming when God's people will feel the barbarous hand of persecution. And, while the powers of

darkness are stirring up things here on earth, the Lord God will be sending us enormous power from above to meet the emergency by arousing us to exalt the Law of Heaven. That is why Jesus Christ came, to magnify the Law, not destroy or change it. (Ex. 31:13; Isa. 42:21). Moreover, we read further, "And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified." (Acts 19:17). Likewise, God's people have the blessed and lofty work of magnifying both the Law and Jesus Christ today, in our time.

We need prayer, fervent, wrestling prayer, like we have never prayed before, or ever! More than preaching. "There are few who rightly appreciate or improve the precious privilege of prayer." Test. Vol. 5, p.200. Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?" SC, pp. 94,95. "Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved." GW, pp. 254,255.

But, still, many wonder why their prayers are so feeble, dry, lifeless, wavering. Or, why their Christian experience is so dark and uncertain. Let us read Isa. 58:6,7 for an answer and recipe for the weak and fainthearted, the doubting, trembling soul.

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen—to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the

heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him: and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Prayer, again, is the battle.

Hastily and readily arise! Help someone! Someone out there needs help! Is the Spirit of God working in you, in us, in our church, our families, our community?

"For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." What now then is your season, your time, your purpose? How did one react to this question? As the apostle Paul stood before Felix the Governor, and made his defense. And as he (Paul) reasoned of righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." (Acts 24:25). What is a convenient season, again, for us?

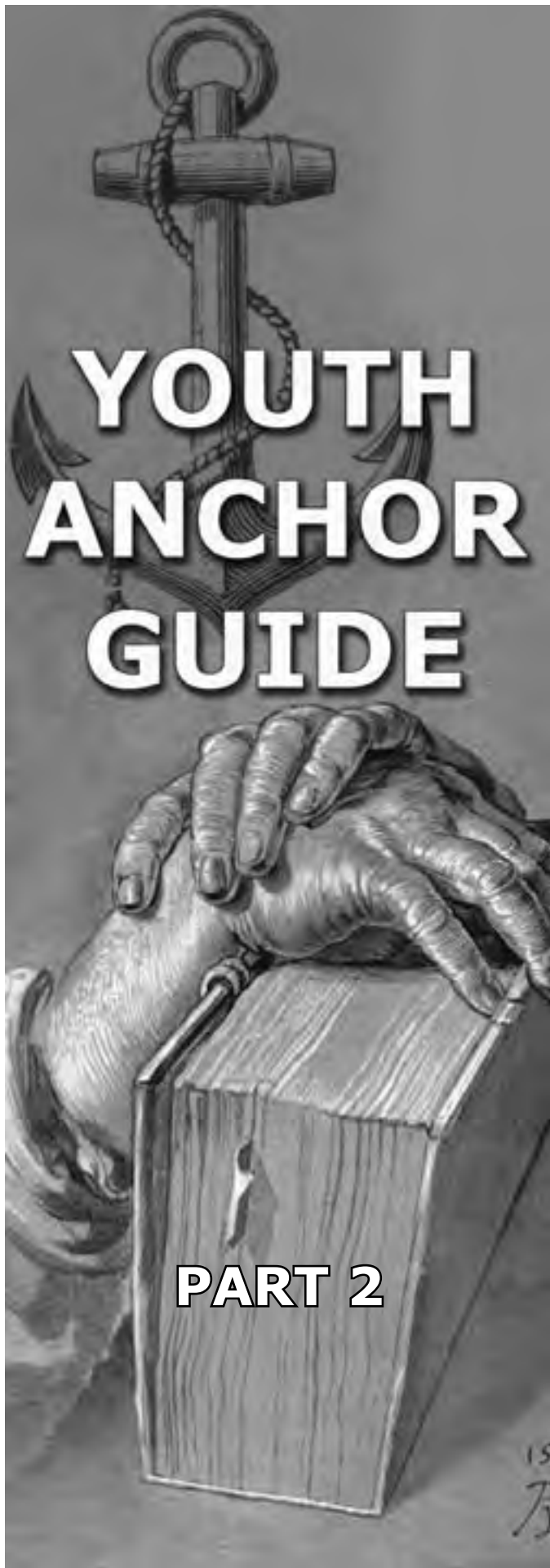
It is my wish and desire that each of us will stand before the throne of God, one day, because we received the love of the Truth, that we might be saved, and now to carry out all of the above, and thereby do THE WORK FOR OUR TIME. **AMEN.**

*John Theodorou, USA*



***What now then is your season, your time, your purpose?***





For, as the scripture says, “just a little while longer, and he who is coming will come; he will not delay. My righteous people, however, will believe and live; but if any of them turns back, I will not be pleased with him.” Heb. 10:37, 38. T.E.V.

Our aim is to keep every youth from evil. We have lost a lot of our youth through wrong association, inter-marriage, worldly amusements, games and through a lot of indulgences. Now we request our youth leaders in every church to work hand in hand with our parents to keep our youth away from these dangers.

### **Daniel’s Temperance As Our Example**

“The youth in this school of training were not only to be admitted to the royal palace, but it was provided that they should eat of the meat and drink of the wine which came from the King’s table. In all this the King considered that he was not only bestowing great honour upon them, but securing for them the best physical and mental development that could be attained.” SL, p. 19; Dan. 1:8.

Daniel was subjected to the severest temptations that can assail the youth of today; yet he was true to the religious instruction received in early life. He was surrounded with influences calculated to subvert those who would vacillate between principle and inclination, yet the word of God presents him as a faultless character. Daniel dared not trust to his own moral power. Prayer was to him a necessity. He made God his strength, and the fear of God was continually before him in all the transactions of his life.” SL, p. 20; Prov. 22:6.

### **Away from Fornication and Adultery**

Some of our youth get married before the marriage, which God was their witness when it happened. You can find them having, one, two or three children outside marriage. This is a sin. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Ex. 20:14.

“We have a very good example of Joseph in the Bible. Joseph was taken a slave in a foreign land, but he feared God in everything in slavery. When he arrived in Egypt, he was in the midst of idolatry. The worship of false gods was surrounded by all the pomp or royalty, supported by the wealth and culture of the most highly civilized nation in existence. Yet Joseph preserved his simplicity and his fidelity to God. The sights and sounds of vice were all about him, but he was as one who saw and heard not. His thoughts were not permitted to linger upon forbidden subjects.

“But Joseph’s faith and integrity were to be tested by fiery trials. His master’s wife endeavored to entice the young man to transgress the law of God. Heretofore he remained untainted by the corruption teeming in that heathen land; but this temptation, so sudden, so strong, so seductive—how should it be met? Joseph knew well what would be the consequence of resistance. On the one hand were concealment, favour, and rewards; on the other, disgrace, imprisonment, perhaps death. His whole future life depended on the decision of the moment. Would principle triumph? Would Joseph still be true to God? With inexpressible anxiety, angels looked upon the scene. His question was, how can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” PP, p. 317; Gen. 39:11-13.

### **Wrong Associations**

“The matter of choosing associates is one which students should learn to consider seriously. Among the youth who attend schools there

will be always found two classes—those who seek to please God and to obey their teachers, and those who are filled with the spirit of lawlessness. If the youth go with the multitude to do evil, their influence will be cast on the side of the adversary of souls; they will mislead those who have not cherished principles of unswerving fidelity.

“It has been truly said, ‘Show me your company, and I will show you your character.’ The youth fail to realize how sensibly both their character and their reputation are affected by their choice of associates. As a stream always partakes of the property of the soil through which it runs, so the principles and habits of youth invariably become tinged with the character of the company in which they mingle.” MYP, p. 411.

“We may learn a lesson from the lily, and although surrounded with influences that would tend to corrupt the morals and bring ruin upon the soul, we may refuse to be corrupted, and place ourselves where evil associations shall not corrupt our hearts. Individually the youth should seek for association with those who are toiling upward with unflinching steps. They should shun the society of those who are absorbing every evil influence, who are inactive and without earnest desire to attainment of a high standard of character, who cannot be relied upon as persons who will be true to principle.” MYP, p. 423; *The Youth Instructor*, Jan. 1893; 2 Cor. 6:4-18.

### **Intermarriage**

If you can go through the whole chapter of Judges 16, you can learn how Samson was deceived because of this same intermarriage. He died an early death. Even King Solomon deceived himself, he thought that because he had power and wisdom, he thought to marry an outsider. His aim was to draw the neighbouring nation to the light of God, but it was all in vain. Youth, let us abstain from these marriages. Deut. 7:3,4; 2 Cor. 6:17.

### **Worldly Amusements**

There are some amusements which I cannot encourage the youth to take part in, even to watch, as shows, lectures, dancing, parties, concerts, watching TV, etc. There are shows, lectures and an endless variety of entertainment that are calculated to lead to a love of the world; and through this union with the world, faith is weakened.

“Satan is a persevering workman, an artful, deadly foe. Whenever an incautious word is spoken, whether in flattery or to cause the youth to look upon some sin with less abhorrence, he takes advantage of it, and nourishes the evil seed, that it may take root and yield a bountiful harvest.” MYP, p. 373.

“The true followers of Jesus will have sacrifices to make. They will shun places of worldly amusements because they find no Jesus there—no influence which will make them heavenly minded and increase their growth in grace.” MYP, p. 376.

Those would-be worshippers of the true God must sacrifice every idol.

The first four precepts of the Decalogue allow no separation of the affection from God. Nor must anything share our supreme delight in Him. We cannot advance in the Christian experience until we put away everything that separates us from God. Matt. 22:37, 38.

#### **Games**

The Lord is advising youth to do away with games, because they are in contrast with God’s will. The games to be done away with are as follows: Football, netball, volleyball, soccer, draft, playing cards, darts, athletics, bicycle racing, and some other worldly games. The spirit which is found in these games is hatred and envy, which leads to rebellion, and the originator of rebellion is the devil. Now know that if you take part in watching and playing games, who is your king? 2 Cor. 13:3-5.

“While the youth are becoming experts in games that are of no real value to themselves or to others, Satan is playing the game of life for their souls, taking from them the talent God has given them, and placing in their stead his own evil attributes. It is his effort to lead men to ignore God. He seeks to engross and absorb the mind so completely that God will find no place in the thoughts.” MYP, p. 213.

“I entreat the students in our schools to be sober minded. The frivolity of the young is not pleasing to God. Their sports and games open the door to a flood of temptations. They are in possession of God’s heavenly endowment in their intellectual faculties, and they should not allow their thoughts to be cheap and low. A character formed

in accordance with the precepts of God’s word will reveal steadfast principles, pure, noble aspirations. The Holy Spirit cooperates with the powers of the human mind, and high and holy impulses are the result.” MYP, p. 382.

### **Football**

Let us consider the game of football (Soccer) particularly. My fellow youth, I would want to warn you against this game, because it is the closest game to you and I. Never play football, never watch football live or on the screen (TV). Love God with all your mind, heart and strength. A lot of power is used in games which should be used in the campaigning for Jesus’ coming.

“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant” FE, p. 225.

“I have not been able to find one instance when He educated His disciples to engage in amusements of football or pugilistic games, to obtain physical exercise, and yet Christ was our pattern in all things.” FE, p. 229.

Youth, let us elevate our standard. Pure hearts, pure thoughts, and clean hands is my sincere wish to every youth world wide. May God bless us when we finish our lessons and make a positive stand. **AMEN.**

**Br. Stephen Mainza, Kabwe**



# OVERCOMING APPETITE

...It is the hardest thing in the world, for me at least. What? Appetite was conquered the day I stopped eating meat. It was conquered when I dropped to two meals. Not mixing fruit and vegetables did it. Raw food. No...

Appetite is a relentless, tireless foe that lurks in the background ready to catch me off-guard. When I am on the watch and seeking divine help it pretends to have dissolved; but when, as I say, I am unready, unprepared, it slips quietly into the front seat and begins to command.

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matt. 26:41.

These words will never lose their importance for me until I am safe inside the gates of heaven.

If Jesus had to endure hunger and temptation, why should I be surprised or complain because of the often and sometimes severe battles I must wage.

If my appetite can be controlled and made to serve instead of command, then many other problems of my life would quietly take their proper places.

How long, O Lord? How long until the end of this struggle on planet earth? How long will mankind waste and abuse the mercies You shower daily upon us. How long before Your people awaken and begin to conquer themselves and the world? How long until sin, sickness and suffering are at an end and the whole universe is indeed one verse, one glad chorus of praise and harmony around your bright throne?

“In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Ps. 16:11.

*Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada*

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

WHEN: DECEMBER 27, 2004 to JANUARY 2, 2005.

WHERE: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Australian Field would like to invite young people from around the world to attend a Youth Conference in the middle of our summer at the end of this year.

Spaces are limited in Sydney as our facilities can only accommodate approximately 60 young people. Therefore it is recommended that you reserve your space early.

### Payments can be sent to:

International Missionary Society  
P.O. Box 54,  
Toongabbie, NSW 2146  
Australia

For detailed information:

[jerryeaton@smartchat.net.au](mailto:jerryeaton@smartchat.net.au) or

[markus@justinternet.com.au](mailto:markus@justinternet.com.au)

or call by telephone: Tel. (+61) 2-9670-2886

We look forward to seeing as many of you as we are able to do so at the end of this year.

A Few  
Spaces  
Still Left!

Meet Youth  
From Around  
the World!



# Psalm 13

1 "[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.] How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

4 Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.

5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

6 I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me." Ps. 13.

"God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath.

"Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance." 5T, p. 452.

"The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried." Dan. 12:10.

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada



# CHILDRENS CORNER

How can we walk in another man's shoes if they don't fit us? The shoes may be too big, or they may be too small, and if we try to walk in them we may experience pain. We may develop blisters on our feet. However, if we do walk in another man's shoes, through the pain we experience, we may begin to understand a little bit of the pain they are experiencing in their life and we won't be so quick to condemn them. Here is a story that will help to illustrate the point.

A poor man, Mr. Bishop owed a large sum of money to the bank. The bank manager, Mr. Merton, threatened to foreclose the mortgage and sell the house that Mr. Bishop was living in with his family.

In reply to Mr. Merton's threat, Mr. Bishop sadly replied, "In that case, it will be sold, and after the struggles I have made, my family will again be homeless. It is hard. I only wish you had to earn your money as I do mine; you might then know something of the hard life of a poor man. If you could only in your imagination, walk in my shoes, I think you would have a little mercy on me."

"It is useless talking; I extended this one year, and I can do so no longer," replied Mr. Merton, as he turned to his desk and continued writing.

The poor man rose from his seat, and walked sadly out of Mr. Merton's office. His last hope was gone. He had just recovered from a long illness, which had swallowed up the money with which he had intended to make the last payment on his house. True, Mr. Merton had waited one year when he failed to make the payments a year ago, due to illness in his family, and he had felt very thankful to him for so doing. This year he, himself, had been laid up for seven months, during which time he could not work, and all his savings were then needed for the support of his family. Again he failed, and now he would again be homeless, and have to begin the world

anew. Had heaven forsaken him and given him over to the tender mercies of the wicked?

After he had left the office, Mr. Merton could not get the words which Mr. Bishop had spoken out of his mind, "I wish you had to earn your money as I do mine."

At home, while doing some paperwork, in the midst of all the numbers on his page, the words seemed to appear, "Put yourself in my shoes."

Unable to eliminate these thoughts from his mind, he laid down his pen saying, "Since I can't get these thoughts out of my mind, I will have to drop in there this afternoon and see how it fares with his family; that man has aroused my curiosity."

About five o'clock he put on a grey wig and some old, worn-out clothing and walked to Mr. Bishop's house. Mrs. Bishop, a pale, weary-looking woman opened it. The poor old man requested permission to enter and rest awhile, saying he was very tired with his long journey, for he had walked many miles that day.

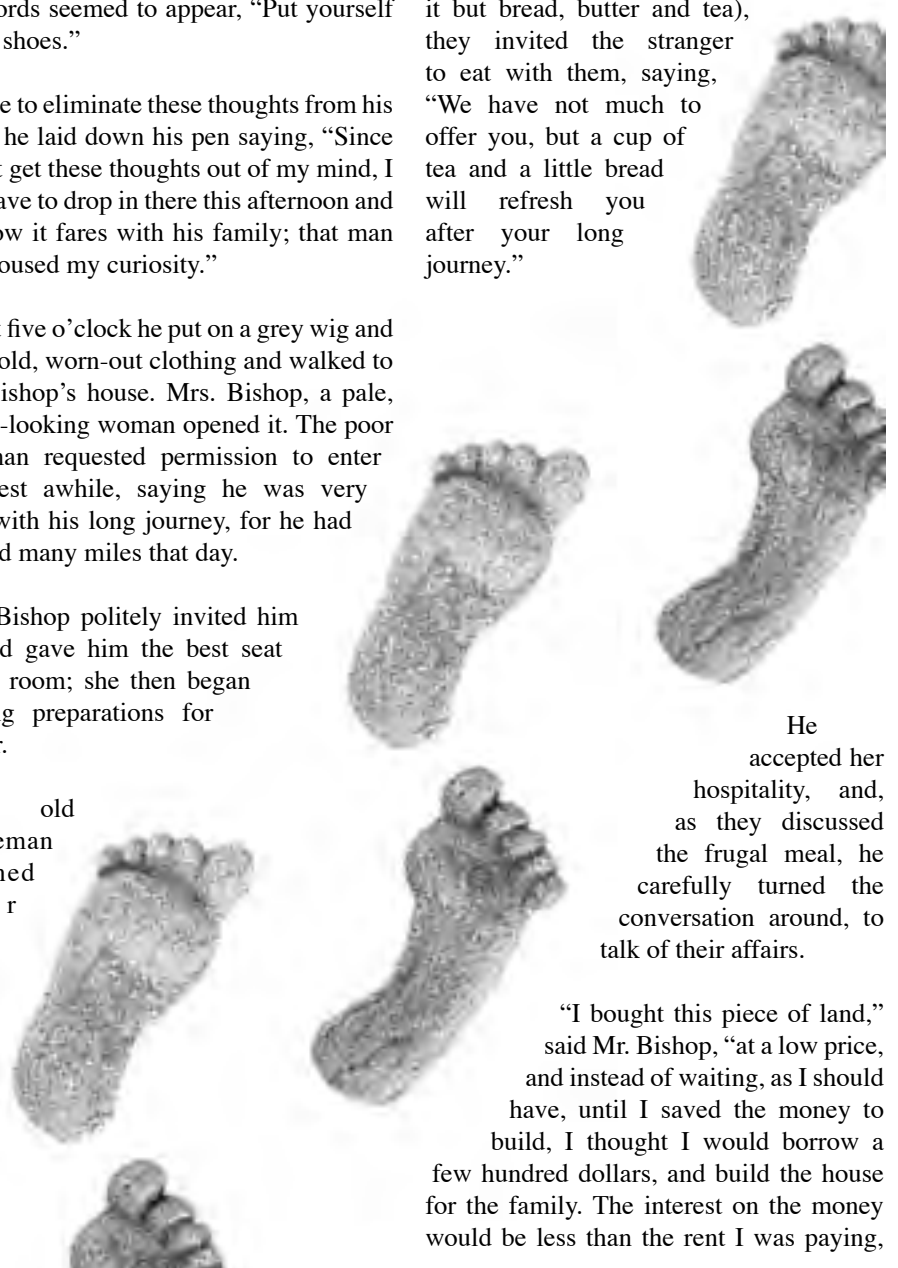
Mrs. Bishop politely invited him in, and gave him the best seat in the room; she then began making preparations for dinner.

The old gentleman watched her

attentively. He saw there was no elasticity in her steps, no hope in her movements, and pity for her began to steal into his heart. When her husband entered, her features relaxed into a smile, and she forced a cheerfulness into her manner. The traveller noticed it all, and he was forced to admire this woman who could assume a cheerfulness she did not feel, for her husband's sake. After the table was prepared (there was nothing on it but bread, butter and tea), they invited the stranger to eat with them, saying, "We have not much to offer you, but a cup of tea and a little bread will refresh you after your long journey."

He accepted her hospitality, and, as they discussed the frugal meal, he carefully turned the conversation around, to talk of their affairs.

"I bought this piece of land," said Mr. Bishop, "at a low price, and instead of waiting, as I should have, until I saved the money to build, I thought I would borrow a few hundred dollars, and build the house for the family. The interest on the money would be less than the rent I was paying,



and I would have something to show for it. I did not think there would be any difficulty in paying back the money; but the first year my wife and one of the children were ill, and the expense left me without money to pay the debt. Mr. Merton, the banker, agreed to wait another year if I would pay the interest, which I did. This year I was for seven months unable to work at my trade and earn anything, and, of course, when pay-day comes around – and that will be very soon – I shall be unable to meet the demand.”

“But,” said the stranger, “will not Mr. Merton wait another year, if you make all the circumstances known to him?”

“No, sir,” replied Mr. Bishop; “I saw him this morning, and he said he must have the money right away or he will foreclose.”

“He must be very hard-hearted,” remarked the traveller.

“Not necessarily so,” replied Mr. Bishop. “The fact is, these rich men know nothing of the struggles of the poor. They are men, just like the rest of mankind, and I am sure if they had but the faintest idea of what the poor have to pass through, their hearts and purses would open. You know it has become a proverb, ‘When a poor man needs help he should go ask the poor.’ The reason is obvious. Only the poor know the curse of poverty. They know how heavily it falls, crushing the heart of man, and (to use my favourite expression) they can at once put themselves in the shoes of the unfortunate one and understand their difficulties, therefore they are ready to give help as much as they are able to. If Mr. Merton had the least idea what I and my family had to pass through, I think he would be willing to wait several years for his money rather than distress us.”

The stranger listened quietly, hiding his emotions. A new world was being opened to him. He was passing through an experience that had never been his before. Shortly after the conclusion of the meal he arose to leave, thanking Mr. and Mrs. Bishop for their kind hospitality. They invited him to stay the

night, telling him he was welcome to what they had.

He thanked them, and said, “I think I can reach the next village before dark, and be so much further on my journey.”

Mr. Merton did not sleep much that night; he lay awake thinking. He had received a new revelation. The poor had always been associated in his mind with stupidity and ignorance, and the first poor family he had visited changed his way of thinking. He found they had greater intelligence in regards to sympathy and real politeness than any of the fashionable and wealthy people of his day.

The next day a boy came and dropped a large blue envelope addressed to Mr. Bishop.

Mrs. Bishop was very much alarmed when she took it, for large blue envelopes were associated in her mind with law and lawyers, and she thought it brought bad news. She put it away until her husband came home from work, when she handed it to him.

He opened it in silence, read its contents, and said, fervently, “Thank Heaven!”

“What is it, John?” inquired his anxious wife.

“Good news, wife,” replied John; “such good news as I never could have dreamed of.”

“What is it? What is it? Tell me quickly! I want to hear, if it is anything good.”

“Mr. Merton has cancelled the mortgage; released me from the debt, both interest and principal; and says any time I need further assistance, if I will let him know, I shall have it.”

“I am so glad! It puts new life into me,” said the now happy wife. “But what can have come over Mr. Merton?”

“I do not know. It seems strange after the way he talked to me yesterday morning. I will go right over to Mr. Merton’s and tell him how happy he has made us.”

He found Mr. Merton in his office, and expressed his gratitude in glowing terms.

“What could have encouraged you” he asked, “to show us so much kindness?”

“I followed your suggestion,” replied Mr. Merton, “and put myself in your shoes. I expect that it will surprise you very much to learn that the strange traveller to whom you showed so much kindness yesterday was I.”

“Indeed!” exclaimed Mr. Bishop, “can that be true? How did you disguise yourself so well?”

“I was not so much disguised, after all; but you could not very readily associate Mr. Merton, the banker, with a poor wayfaring man.”

“Well, it is a good joke,” said Mr. Bishop; “good in more sense than one. The end result has been good for me.”

“I was surprised,” said Mr. Merton, “at the broad and liberal views you expressed of men and their actions generally. I supposed I had greatly the advantage over you in means and education; yet how cramped and narrow minded have been my views compared to yours. That wife of yours is an estimable woman, and that boy of yours will be an honour to any man. I tell you, Mr. Bishop,” said the banker, becoming animated, “you are right – rich beyond what money could make; you have treasures that gold will not buy. I tell you, you owe me no thanks. Somehow I seem to have lived years since yesterday morning. What I have learned at your house is worth more than you owe me, and I am your debtor. Hereafter I shall take as my motto, ‘Put yourself in the other man’s shoes,’ and try to regulate my actions according to it.”

May we all make that a motto of our lives and show kindness and compassion to those who have less material advantages than we do.





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